

Sedalia Weekly Conservator, W. H. HUSTON, Editor & Publisher.

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Is Missouri a "Jim Crow" State?

The associated Press, during the past week, chronicles the news that a committee of the House has decided to make a favorable recommendation to that body of a Bill that will provide for the establishment and maintenance of "Jim Crow Cars" upon all lines transporting passengers in this state. When we read of such action on the part of certain lawmakers of this commonwealth, we immediately asked ourselves this question:— "Is Missouri Really a 'Jim Crow' State?"

If she is, why has she become decadent?

Judged from her geographical location, the composition of her population, a study of her history and early traditions, we cannot find sufficient grounds upon or from which our legislative fathers can erect a "Jim Crow" structure.

From her geographical location, Missouri is not a Southern State. She never has been heretofore accounted as such. Her southern boundary has, since the early "Twenties" marked the Northern limits of the "Solid South." We cannot believe that our beloved state is willing to be counted among the less progressive of our sisterhood of states.

By a careful analysis of her population, we find no element among us that deserves so great an honor as to be set apart from all others just for the purpose of travel. Ours is a cosmopolitan state in the make up of its population. No one element is sufficiently strong to menace the rapid advancement of the whites in this state. No danger lurks in any quarters of "Negro domination." No efforts are being made for social recognition. In fact there is no bitter race antipathies raging in this state between the Negro and his more fortunate contemporary, the white man. Why become devotees of Jimcrowism? As a Negro, we grant that there are some bad and incorrigible ones among us. But we refuse to submit to the accusation that all of us are bad and worthless. Does not the Irish, the German, the Italian, the Swede, the Chinese, the Pole, the Jew, the French and every other racial element that enters into the sum total of our heterogeneous population have their vagabonds, criminals and irresponsibles? Is it too much for the Negro who felled the forests in antebellum days and has done so much to build the early civilization of this commonwealth, to ask that he be given ONE HALF the consideration allotted to aliens? It is true that we were made slaves of without our consent. But we here openly declare that we shall not be dehumanized to the level of brutes. What have we done that it impels more than three millions of peoples to concentrate their efforts upon us to crush us body and soul? Is it possible that great and powerful Caucasian Missouri, nearly four millions strong, is menaced by 200,000 Negroes? Will the legislators of our great state allow a few, who are impelled by prejudice, blacker than hell, race hate, more powerful than plutonic fire, selfishness, more consuming than Vulcanic zeal, and fiendishness, more uncompromising than satanic vindictiveness, to lead them into the enactment of a law that will blacken our statutory records with an ineffaceable stigma that means shame and a backward step never before known in our historical annals?

History of our commonwealth is laden with deeds of valor and chivalry. Laclede, the Indian Pontiac, Boone and thousands of our early settlers and empire building pioneers were too manly to strike the fallen. Let the "Jim Crow" legislators cite us to historical data, where our founders dealt so unmercifully with their unfortunate. It was here in Missouri where the Indian, the Frenchman and the Englishman shared each other's mutual confidence. It was here in this state where the slave master delighted to treat his servants with the consideration due to beings having an immortal soul. It was here in Missouri, where secession, that principle that teaches death to Republics, was overthrown by an Eighty Thousand majority. Missouri has, heretofore, recognized manhood in men. She has counselled "uplift" instead of "put down." She has builded an excellent system of schools for the enlightenment of all—Negroes included. Why crush the hopes that the state itself has built?

Some will say that there are "bad niggers," who will cause trouble on trains. We answer: Hasn't this state handled "bad" white men, whenever they wished to subvert our laws? If it can handle white men who rob trains, wreck banks, surely our civil and military authorities can handle all the "bad niggers" within its confines without crucifying those that have characters vouched for by the best of white men. "Jim Crowism" to Missouri is as compatible to her past achievements as titles of nobility is to our national life.

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THE CONSERVATOR

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Has our legislative fathers ceased to commune with the Bentons, the Browns, the Crittendens, the Marmadukes, the Blands and that great array of citizens of a Grand Old Commonwealth to listen to the decadent and un-American philosophies of the Vardamans of Mississippi, the Carmacks of Tennessee, the Slaydens of Texas and the Graves of Georgia?

If the worse must come, we shall here declare that neither "Jim Crow cars," nor disfranchisement, nor ostracism, nor misrepresentation, nor all the accumulated hate of an unreasonable despotism shall crush our manhood. As one said, "If we are put in cattle cars, let those who open the door for our exit see and know that a MAN steps forth upon the earth."

At The Golden Gate.

Dedicated to the CONSERVATOR.

A white man stood waiting at the Golden Gate.
Finally, there came a Negro up, just a little late.
The white man was sure that when the gate was open wide,
He would leave the Negro standing on the outside.
But the Negro was thinking constantly about the back gate.
Perhaps a way there he might somehow make.
He thought that with the white man he'd not stand any show
And, the other place he would surely have to go.
At last, Saint Peter from his slumbers awoke.
As the Negro politely stepped aside, the white man spoke,
"I want to enter the heavenly land
To be leader of the angel band.
No doubt you have heard of me often before
Being the valiant leader in the world below.
I have led victorious legions across the seas
And, have been doing things, down on earth, just as I please.
I have done everything I have had a chance.
I have made all the world to my music dance.
I have given to the poor food and home
And my money, often, to them I have loaned.
But, since here I have so lately come,
There is no need of telling all that I have done."

"But, say, Old Man, what do you make,
Standing here a-keeping of this old gate?
I admire your way a great deal.
Do you ever get a chance to steal?
I do not think this gate is built very strong;
It should be just a trifle long.
You must be on duty very early in the morn
Or, a 'Nigger' will slip in as sure as you are born.
Let all of the 'Niggers' on the outside forever abide,
Since we haven't any room for them on the inside.
I don't want to see any 'Niggers' standing around,
When I am ready to put on my heavenly gown.
Well, on the side you must take a stand,
So I can march in to hear the band."
Old Saint Peter arose before he spoke
And seemed to consider him as a huge joke.
"You are a fine fellow. I admire your look.
But your name's not on the heavenly book.
So down below you must hastily pace
To be leader of your grand race.
The place that knows of your works so well,
Is known throughout these regions by the name of hell."
The Negro stood quiet, and very eager to run,
Thinking all the while that his doom would quickly come.
He was sure there would be no show for him then,
To pass through the portals to dwell with the elect within.
So, toward the back gate he started to go,
Seeking some dear one that he might know.
But, saint Peter, having turned in his mighty track,
Observed that the retreating one's face was black.

Saint Peter hastily called him back and gently speaking out,
And asked, "Are you from the cruel South?"
The Negro, frightened from beginning to end,
Answered, "Yes, Sir," with a sunny grin.
Saint Peter fell back with a loud and happy cry,
"Go in, my friend, I shall certainly let you by.
Tell Gabriel to give you a big bass drum,
So that you may beat for ages to come.
Tell Gabriel to clothe you in robes of red,
And to feed you on the best of honey and bread.
A man like you from that southern prejudiced wall,
If you had of missed heaven, you'd have missed you all."
And the Scriptures did most truthfully attest,
"Toil and suffer on this earth, because up there you'll have rest."
—OSCAR B. PRICE, Nashville, Tenn.

Have Paid for Directory Space.

For the benefit of those lodges that have not made allowance for last term's directory space, we herewith publish a list of lodges that have voluntarily come forward with the cash:

May we assure the lodges that the carrying of the card in our Official Directory is of advantage to the officials and members of this jurisdiction, since it gives them the means of communicating with any lodge on any matter of vital interest that may arise.

Let each lodge be assured, also, that the management of this periodical will not resort to any coercive or mandatory method to secure payment for card space. It is hoped, however, that each lodge will be benefited to pay the amount asked.

The following lodges have met the requirement with pleasure:
Lily number 8; New Era num-

ber 40; Progress number 43; Kaw Valley number 54; Kansas City number 59, all of Kansas City.
Harrison number 12, Huntville
Richmond number 20, Richmond
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Pythagoras number 30, Ironton
Anchor number 31, Cape Girardeau
Philosophian number 33, Paris
Semper Fidelis number 34 and St. Louis 41, St. Louis
Greater Sedalia number 42, Sedalia
New Madrid number 45, New Madrid
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lia. By the loyalty of the lodges the Conservator, your Official Organ, has been able to pursue its work effectively. Our thanks we most cordially extend to the Brethren.
W. H. Huston,
Editor & Publisher.

TUSKEGEE SCHOOL IS TO BE EXAMINED.

Measure Introduced in Alabama Legislature.

Montgomery, Ala., Jan. 19.—The Tuskegee normal and industrial school, of which Booker T. Washington is principal, is to be examined by state accountants, according to a bill presented to the legislature today by Representative Thompson of the county in which the school is located. The bill is in response to a sentiment that the entire expenditure of the school should be made public in detail, that the people of the state can tell just what is being done and taught there.

For some time there has been growing a feeling against the school, resulting from the recent riots. Some openly say that if examination is not allowed the state support and sympathy will be withdrawn. However, the larger part of the best people are for aiding the school. Representative Thompson also has a bill to withdraw the exemption privileges for the school lands, the holdings becoming so large that to free them from taxes will greatly reduce the finances of the county.

Read the Conservator and get the news.

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